(viii) Under the Fibres and handicrafts Programme (FHAP) with UNDP assistance, development programmes are being implemented in the non-mulberry sector.

(c) The Central Silk Board has projected an expenditure of approximately Rs. 56 crore for development of sericulture in the North Eastern States.

Export of Ready-made Garments and Handicrafts

2289. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise details of readymade garments and handicrafts exported from the country, as on 30th November, 1999; and

(b) the action being taken by Government to increase the export of such items during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no provision for collecting state-wise export data. However, Exports of Readymade Garments in the period April-November, 1999 is US $ 3283.4 million and exports of handicrafts in the period April-November, 1999 is US $ 865.54 million.

(b) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to promote exports. Some of the important initiatives/actions to increase the export during 9th Plan are as under:

(i) The Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

(ii) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(iii) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crore.

(iv) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/ EPCG units.

(v) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embillishments.

(vi) Promotion through preparation of product catalogue of International Standards.

(vii) Promotion through advertisement in International magazines.

(viii) Sales-cum-study team, Design Workshop, participation in International fair.